

KALPANA NO 7

A REPORT
FROM
NEW ZEALAND - WAIMATA

See page 11.



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SRI LANKA U.F.O. REGISTER



SECRETARY: S. WALGAMA,
"SOMNASE",
HETTI WEEDIYA,
WELIGAMA, SRI LANKA.

ROBIN McKIE reports that scientists believe we are unique

Hunt for alien beings

THE OBSERVER, SUNDAY 5 DECEMBER 1982

fails

EXTRA-terrestrial life is about to sweep Britain's cinemas. But enthusiasm for the record-breaking film 'E.T.' — which opens here this week — will not be shared by a growing group of scientists who believe it is the closest we shall ever get to alien contact.

It might seem a killjoy notion, yet astronomers and biologists are becoming increasingly pessimistic about the possibility that intelligent life exists elsewhere in our galaxy. We are alone, they believe.

A once enthusiastic crusade led by astronomer Carl Sagan backed the idea that our galaxy teems with planets and civilisations. It is now in retreat — to be replaced

by a new scepticism among scientists. As one asked bleakly: 'If they are out there, why haven't we heard from them?'

One of the leaders of the new movement is US cosmologist Dr Frank Tipler, who maintains that we represent the only intelligent life in the galaxy — and possibly the universe. 'Life may exist elsewhere but it is extremely improbable it will develop into intelligent beings,' he said.

Recent work by biologists has shown that intelligence is a very unlikely end product of evolution. 'It was a very rare chance indeed that led us to develop technological prowess,' added Dr Tipler, of Tulane University, New Orleans. 'There are countless other routes for evolving life to take.'

This cosmic chauvinism is backed by British Interplanetary Society vice-president Dr Tony Martin. 'For the past couple of decades scientists like Sagan have been running round saying the galaxy is filled with intelligent beings. But where are they?'

'Many of their civilisations should be far more advanced than ours, which means they should have colonised much of the galaxy, or at least visited our solar system. In fact we have found absolutely nothing — despite all our searching.'

And there is a third factor which influences the pessimists — the very delicate conditions which support life on earth. Scientists have recently found that only small changes in our environment would have devastating repercussions.

For instance, computer work by Dr Michael Hart, of Trinity University, Texas, has shown that the slightest change in earth's orbit in the past would have either turned our world into a searing furnace — like our nearest neighbour Venus — or into an ice-covered lump too cold to support life.

Life clearly requires very precise conditions to begin and thrive.

However, the pessimistic view is not shared by all astronomers. Professor Archibald Roy, of Glasgow University, describes himself as a follower of the Uriah Heep principle of astronomy — we are just 'an ever so 'umble' form of galactic life. 'I think civilisations are ten a penny throughout the cosmos,' he said.

Life survives in some very



E.T.: Nearest we'll get.

hostile places and at least on this planet has developed to an intelligent level. 'Just because we have never made extra-terrestrial contacts does not mean aliens do not exist,' added Professor Roy. 'If nothing else, we could have been put in quarantine — they could be waiting to set if we blow up or grow up.'

EDITOR: One could, with equal justice, claim that Chinamen do not exist by ignoring every Chinaman that walks down the road.

WASHINGTON: A team of astronomers has discovered what it believes is the largest stellar black hole yet detected, US scientists said last night.

Light on the darkness

● A Soviet newspaper said yesterday that the existence of unidentified flying objects (UFOs) should not be ruled out and revealed that a Soviet fighter plane had a brush with a mystery object two years ago.

The weekly *Sovietskaya Kultura* said there were still many unexplained phenomena behind various "flying saucer" reports and urged scientists to collect and collate as much information as possible on the subject.

In an example of recent strange happenings in the Soviet Union, the report said a fighter plane encountered a "fiery ball" 16 feet in diameter in 1981.

Scientists had at first assumed the phenomenon was ball lightning, but the damage to the plane did not tally with this.

It also revealed that the Soviet Union was working on plans for a long-distance, unmanned space mission to try to track down signs of civilisation on distant planets. — *Reuter*.

Another superb heading from the newspaper :
THE GUARDIAN (U.K.)
Friday 7 January 1983

With acknowledgement to THE OBSERVER, THE GUARDIAN, THE ISLAND, WEEKEND, THE SUN and SILVARROW.

'UFO' not identified yet

By Lasantha Wickremetunge

An unidentified fallen object from outer space crashed into Pitakande in the Mawathagama electorate at 12.30 p.m. yesterday.

A special team of scientists led by Dr. Granville Dharmawardene, Chairman Atomic Energy Authority, was rushed by air to the scene of the incident to ascertain the full details.

The object the size of a tennis ball had burnt itself out on reaching the earth.

Two youths who had spotted the object had reported it to the Mawathagama Police.

Police sources told *"The Island"* that the area had been declared a security zone and investigations were being carried out under the direction Mr. M. D. C. Saparamadu, S.P., Kurungala Division.

Meanwhile, Dr. Arthur C. Clerk when contacted by *"The Island"* said that it could not be the debris from the Soviet Satellite Cosmos 1402 since it's

fall was not due till Monday morning, Soviet time.

Dr. K. G. Dharmawardene told *"The Island"* that an analysis of the sand collected at the site would be carried out at the Radio isotope centre, University of Colombo tomorrow.

He said it could not be established yet whether the object was a part of the "Cosmos" or a meteorite and that would have to wait till Monday when the "Cosmos" would enter the earth's surface.

Dr. Dharmawardena, Chairman Atomic Energy Authority, said when they went to the site what they saw was ashes. Geiger count indicated low radio activity but slightly above normal radiation.

Asked whether it could be a meteorite he said that it will be a very big coincidence because a meteorite just can't get burnt off.

Dr. Dharmawardena said that the size of the burnt out patch was 2 to 2½ ins. radius. there was no cause for public panic he said.

From the Late City Sunday Edition
of THE ISLAND (SRI LANKA) dated
23 January 1983.

This 'UFO' is now believed to have been nothing more than a terrestrial fire cracker.

'PLANETARY EXPLORATION IS A VITAL ISSUE'

AZIZ HANIFFA INTERVIEWS CARL SAGAN.

What is your opinion on furthering international efforts in space?

SAGAN: I think it is imperative. I look at the present precipitous decline in the United States unmanned planetary programme and then I note that the European Space Agency and the Soviet-French consortium and Japan are all preparing for their first significant inter-planetary missions. Hence, I see that the human species at least is doing fine—it's just the United States that is experiencing some decline in that particular area.

Will the US space shuttle be a catalyst in the advancement of space science?

SAGAN: I think it is important to realize that the shuttle is a retrogressive step as far as planetary exploration is concerned.

Don't you think that the aforesaid is more a vehicle of politics rather than of science?

SAGAN: It's a military vehicle. It's a way of keeping the manned space flight community happy. If there are no manned space flights they would be out of a job—and things of that sort. I certainly think that there are important missions in the Earth's orbit and I would definitely emphasize this particular aspect. Military reconnaissance satellites are extremely stabilizing — its hard for one side to surprise the other — and that's all for the good. By no means is it clear that those have to be manned missions. In order to clear these doubts something like the shuttle becomes invaluable. However, it is a mistake to complain about the shuttle because after all we are committed to it and since the US has made that decision it's best to maximise its utility.

What is your opinion on the state of scientific space developments?

SAGAN: Space telescope is certainly the most exciting scientific mission that is scheduled on the shuttle at the present time and that has a fair chance of revolutionizing many areas of astronomy, ranging from the search for planets around nearby stars to the grand cosmological issues about the origin, nature and fate of the universe and its entirety. Beyond that there is only one planetary mission that the United States has scheduled and that is Galileo, which has been postponed and altered half a dozen times already, and on the present schedule is not envisaged to arrive at Jupiter until about 1990. And that may be delayed again, which would mean that there would be no planetary mission launched in the decade of the 1980s that would accomplish its objective in this era. It's as if the 1980s was a sort of "mini dark age" in terms of planetary exploration.



Carl Sagan who wrote and

starred in the TV series

"Cosmos".

Continued on page 13..

A LOOK AT A UFO BOOK: "Flying Saucers Are Hostile" by Brad Steiger and Joan Whritenour. Universal-Tandem Publishing Co., 1967. Paperback, 160 pages, not illustrated, price £0.25.

Flying saucers are not hostile. This is the prevalent message that comes across from a careful reading of this book, despite its sensational-looking cover showing disc-like objects shooting beams of white light at the globe of the Earth. For some peculiar reason there is also a very un-UFOlike, obviously man-made rocket in the foreground; presumably it is trying to protect Earth from hordes of invading saucers.

One could be forgiven for taking the book at first glance to be cheap and nasty. Priced at 25 pence it is not an expensive book but it is sadly lacking in logic and appears to have been written hurriedly to get it on to the publishing band-wagon. What it achieves ultimately is to create more confusion in people's minds about the whole UFO phenomenon.

Over-ambitious chapter headings such as: 'Patterns of Horror', 'Grim Games of Cat and Mouse', 'Alien Interference at Military and Space Flight Centers' and the penultimate 'Must We Prepare For a War of the Worlds?' all add to the theme of non-ending hostility by flying saucers but detailed analysis of each chapter shows they are not accurate, nor factual, nor do they reflect the authors' own confused state of mind.

For example, if one studies Chapter 3, paragraph by paragraph one finds that the 'Grim Games of Cat and Mouse' are all about UFOs interacting with motor vehicles and creating the "EM EFFECT", the Electro-Magnetic Effect. This effect which has been thoroughly documented by Mark Rodeghier and a Data Analysis published by the Center For UFO Studies, actually gives us a clue to the nature of the force-fields which surround UFOs, a fact long-since suspected by ufologists from the 1940's. However, Steiger and Whritenour are trying to show that the display of this effect, which is essentially educational, is one of hostility and overt aggression. It is true that many of the UFO witnesses who are in motor cars at the time of their experience do get frightened, are only too keen to get away but this is understandable: man always fears the unknown, especially at night.

Of the 20 car-chases from 1964 to 1966 that Steiger has collected in this chapter, only one can be construed as showing signs of deliberate hostility but this one report is anonymous, does not state exactly where the incident occurred except to say over a deserted road in the southwestern United States. It gives the date as February 7, 1965 and claims that the UFO repeatedly struck the motor car till it was wrecked beyond repair. If that was the case, where is the physical evidence, the remains of this car?

This particular case sounds very much like a concocted case. It does not fit the pattern of the 19 other car-UFO interactions. Only one of the other 19 cases is anonymous; all the rest give the names of the witnesses and exact locations. Not one of the other 19 cases are of deliberate hostility. Yes, the paintwork on a vehicle might have got blistered, people may have suffered burns, children and women may have been scared out of their wits, but that is not hostility. A child can suffer burns if it touches the hot exhaust of a motor car, people get frightened of all kinds of things that go bump in the night, hundreds and hundreds of people get knocked down by motor cars everyday - do we conclude that motor-cars are hostile to the human race?

It is this kind of loose logic which makes this a shoddy book. The same principle is applied by the authors in the other chapters. Consider Chapter 9, titled 'The Case For Extraterrestrial Invaders'. A careful reading of the chapter does not show any case for an extraterrestrial invasion. The chapter quotes the late Dr. James E. McDonald and in fact the preface to the book has the following quotation from this professor at the Institute of Atmospheric Physics at the University of Arizona:

"There are certain patterns that suggest that they (the UFOs) are engaged in something of the nature of reconnaissance. I regard this as the number one problem before science. It's a problem demanding truly international investigation."

Reconnaissance is not invasion. Nowhere has Dr. McDonald suggested that the UFOs are planning an invasion. This is an example of authors using the statements of prominent people to slant and suggest that the perfectly sound statements somehow uphold their particular pet theory about UFOs. It is poor taste at best. If UFOs wished to invade this Planet it would not take them much effort and all they would be left with is a race of people who, according to the classification of ancient Buddhist texts, are fifth from the bottom rung of the ladder amongst 31 different types of world in the Universe. Not worth the effort!

It is feasible that some UFOs are hostile. The authors concede the possibility "that there is more than one source for the UFOs." "In addition," they say, "to the aggressive and hostile them, there have been numerous reports of UFOs whose actions must be interpreted as solicitous of man and whose only purpose seems to be observation of an alien culture."

Then why did they not title their book: "SOME FLYING SAUCERS ARE HOSTILE" or "NOT ALL FLYING SAUCERS ARE HOSTILE"? This book cannot really be recommended as serious reading. Better luck next time Brad Steiger, or is it Eugene Olson?

THE BUDDHA FROM VENUS - An Interview With The Aetherius Society

In the appendix to Dr. Jacque Vallee's book: "THE UFO ENIGMA: CHALLENGE TO SCIENCE" (1) there is a survey conducted among UFO groups in the United States. One of the questions posed as part of the survey was to list the most significant UFO sightings.

It is interesting to note that of the 26 sightings mentioned, only one group listed the 'Star of Bethlehem' as a UFO. Although the book does not state which group listed this, it is important in view of the fact that writers such as Patrick Moore, Arthur C. Clarke and others have attempted to force-fit 'natural', astronomical explanations for the Star of Bethlehem, some of which have been lacking in rationale, and quite unconvincing. One could safely assume that the group in Vallee's survey which listed the Star of Bethlehem was in fact.....the Aetherius Society.

For this belief is a kingpin in the religious teachings of the Aetherius Society. The Society, which was founded in London in 1955 has also been deeply embroiled in the UFO controversy. That its Founder/President is a mystic and Yogi may be anathema to many scientists but it should not need repeating here that, up till now, science has been incompetent and unable to solve the problem of UFOs; scientists certainly do not possess the 'divine right' to knowledge. If the UFO problem can be solved by mystics, then so be it.

Many years ago, the Aetherius Society revealed in the pages of its journal, "COSMIC VOICE", that there had been a devastating nuclear accident in the USSR. At the time, there was not a word about it in the Western Press but in 1977, when Soviet dissident, biochemist and medical researcher Dr. Zhores Medvedev proved that details about the disaster were available in Russian-written technical journals, freely accessible in a London library, there was a heated stir, during which the Atomic Energy Authority in the UK got deeply involved. Such important information is conveniently forgotten by critics of the Society.

The Aetherius Society regards that knowledge as an intelligence scoop and believes it deserves rightful credit for it. The Society has no doubt about its source of knowledge - it is extraterrestrial they state. Since 1954, the Society's renowned Founder/President has been claiming telepathic contact with space intelligences, through a self-induced Yogic, Samadhic trance. The teachings of the Society are complex and manifold; only a direct interview could justly clarify the many issues of concern, to all readers of KALPANA VA.

See the Editor's comments at the end of the series.

THE BUDDHA FROM VENUS

An Interview With The Aetherius Society - PART I



THE FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT OF THE AETHERIUS SOCIETY ILLUSTRATING A LECTURE ON SPIRITUAL HEALING

In order to place the Society's origin within the context of the UFO controversy, an interview was arranged with the secretary of the Society, Dr. Richard Lawrence. At their Fulham headquarters, in the southwest of London, Dr. Lawrence made some startling revelations, as a breeze rustled the leaves of the house plants on the balcony of the neatly-decorated building.

INTERVIEWER: Dr. Richard Lawrence, perhaps you could start by explaining the meaning of the symbol of the Aetherius Society.

Dr. Lawrence: The Symbol was devised by his Eminence, Sir George King. I am sure that readers will be familiar with part of the symbol which is the very ancient Word from Sanskrit, depicting Brahma or God or whatever Name you attribute to the One Creative Principle throughout the Cosmos.

The other part of the symbol, namely the triangle, is the ancient symbol for Wisdom. So, His Eminence Sir George King, who is the founder and President of the Aetherius Society, conceived of putting these two together - for the first time to our knowledge - creating a symbol which depicts Brahma manifesting Itself through Wisdom.

INTERVIEWER: How did the Aetherius Society come into being?

Dr. Lawrence: The Society is based primarily on a series of contacts from other Planets which were first received by Sir George King in 1954. We attribute the name Aetherius to a Master from the Planet Venus.

INTERVIEWER: Could you tell us a little more about this Intelligence?

Dr. Lawrence: This is a Master above and beyond even the great Masters of the Orient and other parts of the world who have mastered all known forms of Yoga. These Masters from the other Planets are above and beyond even this

very high spiritual level of accomplishment, because the civilisations on the other Planets in this Solar System are more advanced than Earth's.

INTERVIEWER: One of the teachings of the Aetherius Society is that the Lord Buddha was of Interplanetary origin?

Dr. Lawrence: That is correct.

INTERVIEWER: Buddhism does not deny the existence of extraterrestrial life. Sri Lanka is essentially a Buddhist country but it would be a novel concept there - that the Lord Buddha was from another Planet. The most knowledgeable Buddhist scholars are to be found in Sri Lanka and their reaction to this statement would be very interesting.

Dr. Lawrence: The most important statement I can make to the great Buddhist scholars is the fact that the Lord Buddha is at the present time back upon this planet, upon a very Holy Temple whereon he presides as its Master.

This is one of the reasons why Buddhist thought has spread so much throughout the world. Sitting here, as we are now in the southwest of London, perhaps one can say this with far more conviction than from Sri Lanka, where Buddhism is a way of life.

Over here, we have seen a spread of Buddhism and Eastern philosophy in general, and this immense spread was predicted many years ago by Sir George King - as a result of the Lord Buddha taking this prominent position upon this Temple which has been referred to in ancient writings as Shamballa.

INTERVIEWER: You also regard Sri Krishna as a Cosmic Being?

Dr. Lawrence: Yes. All the depictions of Sri Krishna have been of a godlike Being of light, beauty and grace. We believe that Sri Krishna came from the Planet Saturn, which we are told is the most advanced planetary civilisation in this Solar System, with the single exception of the Sun. We are told this by the Space Beings themselves.

INTERVIEWER: What does the Aetherius Society have to say about the Star of Bethlehem?

Dr. Lawrence: We have tremendous reverence for the Master Jesus (as we call this great Being) who we also regard as Interplanetary, just as we have tremendous reverence and regard for the Lord Buddha. We believe that both these Beings came from other Planets.

At the birth of Jesus, we can see that the Star of Bethlehem was not an ordinary star, for a star cannot hover above a stable in that manner. It was an interplanetary Spacecraft which came to bring Jesus to be born on Earth.

INTERVIEWER: Are you saying that Jesus was an Avatara, a Divine re-incarnation?

Dr. Lawrence: Absolutely. We do believe in the Virgin Birth and we do believe this was, as you rightly ask, a re-

Incarnation. We certainly believe in reincarnation, as any open-minded person must, after study of the subject.

INTERVIEWER: So the birth of these Masters appears to constitute part of a spiritual plan?

Dr. Lawrence: Yes, and it is a Cosmic Plan which is tied into the astrological tides and ages. We are just entering the New Age, the Age of Aquarius. It is a Cosmic Plan which has its ramifications beyond the present civilisation. It goes right back to atlantis and the civilisation before that, Lemuria, and even before that. As a matter of fact the Aetherius Society has given greater explanation of the history of man, the true history of man, than any other organisation known to the public.

The second part of this interview will be continued in the next issue of KALPANA VA.

THE BUDDHA FROM VENUSReferences:

- (1) "THE UFO ENIGMA - CHALLENGE TO SCIENCE" by Jacques and Janine Vallee. Ballantine Books, New York, 1974 (1966 copyright).
See Appendix V, page 269: 'Civilian UFO Groups In The United States'.
- (2) Patrick Moore has devoted an entire programme of his series on British Television "THE SKY AT NIGHT" to a discussion about the Star of Bethlehem.
- (3) For a detailed discussion of the Star of Bethlehem, see Arthur C. Clarke's book "REPORT ON PLANET THREE", published by Victor Gollancz Ltd., London, 1972.
- (4) See "COSMIC VOICE" Volume No. 2, February 1957. Published by the Aetherius Society, London.
- (5) See the Daily Express of Friday July 1, 1977: "DON'T LET BRITAIN BECOME THE WORLD'S NUCLEAR CEMETRY". Interview by Geoffrey Levy.
Many newspapers in the UK carried the 'sensational' message by Dr. Zhores Medvedev, twenty years later.....

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A CATALOGUE OF UFO REPORTS FROM SRI LANKA

The proposed Catalogue is still being prepared by the Sri Lanka UFO Register. We need every report of a UFO sighting that has been published in the island and reports that have never been published because they have never been reported to a documenting agency have to be prised out of witnesses by discussion. Ask around - a friend or relative may have seen something they could not explain at the time. If you see an Unidentified Flying Object please send in a report to KALPANA VA. Tell young and old about the Lanka UFO Register and its journal of mysteries, the one and only KALPANA VA in Sri Lanka, therefore the best.....

Readers and researchers are urged to scan newspapers and magazines as far back as 1947, and even further back. A basic statistical analysis is made difficult by incomplete reports. Field investigators are asked to send for the free leaflet 'TIPS FOR FIELD INVESTIGATORS'.

The Catalogue will be published when a publisher is brave enough to undergo an unusual venture. Any offers?

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UFO OVER WAIMATA VALLEY - An Overseas Report

The following report was given to the Sri Lanka UFO Register by Mrs. Gillian Drake, who used to live in Gisbourne, on the east coast of the North Island of New Zealand at the time of the UFO sighting, which occurred on the 26th. December 1977.

At 11.00 p.m., a member of her family called them all outside to observe a bright object that was darting about, between some peaks over Waimata Valley, half a mile from their farmstead. The object was reddish-yellow in colour, totally silent and flitted from one peak to another and back again, covering hundreds of yards in a few seconds, performing unorthodox manouevres with "the slightest of ease".

All members of her family and some visitors, a group totalling eight, saw this enigmatic light from their back porch for a good half hour. Mrs. Drake recalls that between 26th. December 1977, and the 1st. January 1978, there were many other UFO reports from neighbouring farms; one man stated that a UFO actually landed on his patch. Although she did not document these reports at the time, she heard tales of cars being followed by UFOs and one farmer had reported that a large water-tank on his land, which was constantly topped up, was found to be completely dry the morning after a UFO was sighted hovering over it.

From time to time, KALPANA VA will publish reports of UFOs from overseas in order that such reports which do get sent to us are not lost to worldwide researchers, since they are unlikely to be published elsewhere.

Coming in the next issue of KALPANA VA.....

SRI LANKA'S FIRST UFO?

THE KING OF TERRA - The Second Part of the
Interview with the Aetherius Society

News and Views

.PSYCHIATRY AND UFO REPORTS

and other interesting items.

KALPANA VA is published by the Sri Lanka UFO Register and is
Sri Lanka's journal of mysteries.

EDITORIALAll Aspects

When the Sri Lanka UFO Register was set up, the first issue of the journal KALPANA VA (which means 'thought' or 'contemplation' in the Sinhalese language) stated that it would study "all aspects of UFOs". That meant all aspects - 'nuts and bolts', 'political implications', 'social factors', 'religious interpretations', - every type of UFO report, contactee and the entire global nature of the phenomenon.

The first Editorial stated bluntly that the Register will not shirk studying "all facets of the UFO enigma". This we have strived to do. From featuring The Center For UFO Studies (USA), to an interview with controversial occultist Rex Dutta and his "Aquarian Viewpoint", the journal KALPANA VA has not been backward in giving consideration to the complex and puzzling nature of the UFO phenomenon and its colourful students.

This journal has published well-written in-depth analyses of UFO reports and UFO books: where logic has been absent it has not failed to point out the omission; where nonsense was purveyed it has used reason and common-sense to rebut this; where a feature of the UFO phenomenon did not fit the global pattern it has focussed on the inconsistency.

Whilst science remains unable to solve the UFO problem in its entirety, no one has any right to suggest that a certain aspect of the phenomenon should not be studied. It is the open-minded and clear-thinking scientist who will eventually draw closer to solutions. Such solutions certainly will not come from narrow-minded, Earth-bound views because of the very nature of the phenomenon.

Some years ago, Professor Herbert Dingle, in his book "SCIENCE AT THE CROSSROADS" ably demonstrated that world-class physicists are incapable of logical deduction when confronted with a simple dilemma about Einstein's Theory of Relativity. Instead, they used personal attacks to camouflage their inability to counter a very reasonable and clear-cut argument. If this applies to the world of high-energy quantum physics, what about the other fields of science? What about UFO research? A sad yet telling indictment of humanity's intelligence - but there are many who believe that the UFO phenomenon is the interaction of extraterrestrial intelligence with ours!

Just think about that - "KALPANA VA" (pronounced 'culpa-nah-ver).

Continued from page 4....

From WEEKEND (SRI LANKA)

SUNDAY MARCH 27 1983.

EDITOR: Say Carl, what about the UFOs?

DOUBLE

PULITZER PRIZE

WINNER SPEAKS

TO WEEKEND

Is Arthur C. Clarke beginning to admit his age?

**Clarke
clarifies
the
position**

I would like to clarify the statement in Parliament on March 23 when V. Dharmalingam referred to my archaeological 'discoveries' off Trincomalee.

It is, alas, exactly 20 years since I was actively involved in such matters. The reference must be to my associate Mrs. Valerie Ekanayake of Underwater Safaris, who discovered a small (about two feet high) stone statue of a god or goddess while diving off Swami Rock in 1979.

—ARTHUR C. CLARKE

Colombo 7.

How about Spacelab? (The European Space Agency module built to fly aboard the US space shuttle.)

SAGAN: I'm not sure what the science on Spacelab is and what could not be achieved by unmanned missions for smaller cost and also more efficiency.

So your contention is that there is more scientific value in an unmanned mission vis-a-vis per dollars—.....

SAGAN: Absolutely! There is no question about it. Consider the exploration of Mars, for example. A long-term mission, roving, vehicles, thousand-kilometre traverses over the Martian landscape, pictures being transmitted to Earth each day, digging in the soil — an extremely sophisticated mission with several space vehicles. It would cost, at an approximation, two to three billion dollars. The same kind of manned mission to Mars would cost something in the region of two to three hundred billion dollars — the worth of a couple of Vietnam wars \$150 billion in 1970 dollars—and there is every possibility that it could cost even more! There is no doubt that particularly in the realm incorporating the exploration of planets, the cost effective ratio of unmanned missions as opposed to manned missions are tremendous. Furthermore one could go to more places and one could take a lot more risks in exotic extra-terrestrial environments with an unmanned mission than could be imagined in the case of a manned mission.

You compared the price of a manned space mission with the price of the Vietnam war. Is that a fair analogy?

SAGAN: Well, yes. Apart from the fact that it was such a psychological, emotional, not to mention physical drain of an entire generation; in monetary terms there are many economists who are convinced that the present depression is a direct consequence of the huge expenditures of the Vietnam war. Expenditures which did not do anything at all to pump up the civilian economy, the bitter aftertaste which is almost overwhelming us now. This raises the question as to whether any nation today can afford a several hundred billion dollar expenditure with the economic climate the way it is.

Do you think that students should concern themselves and get all hyped up and excited about what happens in outer space?

SAGAN: Definitely; After all students are the future, and the attitudes that students have about the direction of the space programme will ultimately determine, or to a large extent, determine, the direction of that programme. When present students who are enthusiasts about space get a little older, get advanced degrees and become leaders in scientific and administrative parts of the space programme, they will have a great deal to say about what options are available, what directions we should proceed in which I think is extremely important. In fact there are a lot of people in my own particular age group who have at least something to say if not to contribute, to the direction of the space programme, who got terribly excited when we were your age or even much younger.

From the SUN (SRI LANKA): TUESDAY
MARCH 29, 1983.

Fresh theory on origin of life

By T. Sabaratnam

Fresh fuel has been added to the five year old controversy about the origin of life with the new claim by Prof. Chandra Wickramasinghe and his Cardiff based group of astronomers that billions of tons of proteins have been detected in space.

The group claims that it bases its prognosis on information gathered from observations by telescopes and instruments on board the international ultraviolet explorer satellite which first detected the protein molecules.

This claim is contained in a remarkable paper published in the latest issue of "Astrophysics and Space Science."

Prof. Wickramasinghe, who is now in Sri Lanka, said the international ultraviolet explorer mission launched several years ago was a joint project by the National Aeronautic and Space Agency (NASA) of the USA, the European Space Agency and the British Scientific Research Council.

The information from the satellite was received by the Starlink terminal set up at the Cardiff astronomy department a year ago.

The protein molecules that have been

detected are spread throughout the galaxy. What type they are is still a mystery. Their next effort is to identify them he said.

'Explorer' discovered the protein by analysing light beams from distant stars. As these beams traversed space they encounter floating particles in the interstellar clouds which break up the light absorb the ultra-violet parts of it. This showed those inter-stellar particles to be proteins.

"In our studies of the first four or five stars, protein signals

came over loud and clear" he said.

Sir Fred Hoyle, the famous British astronomer, and Prof. Wickramasinghe were assisted by the 25-year old Iraqi student Laith Karim in these experiments.

The Hoyle — Wickramasinghe theory claims life originated in the far reaches of space and was an external introduction to earth.

The theory goes further and claims evolution to be the result of the constant influx of the biological material from space.

DAILY NEWS,

TUESDAY,

MARCH 29, 1983.

From the English Daily with the
largest circulation in Sri Lanka:
DAILY NEWS, TUESDAY, MARCH 29, 1983.

IS THIS MAN ANOTHER ? UFO CONTACTEE?

The following paper cutting from SILVARROW (London, Dec. 1982) should be of interest to readers of KALPANA VA. Is this religious teacher from Matale in Sri Lanka another UFO contactee? He claims to hear the voice of Sri Krishna talking to him through a "ball of light".

DECEMBER 1982 SILVARROW 28

HINDU NEWS

BY P Selvarajah

SWAMI PREMANANDA OF MATALE

A dynamic young saffron-robed figure with a bristling crown of curly hair and a dark beard moving briskly among the groups of devotees assembled on the lawn, nestling among the salubrious hills of Matale in Sri Lanka. The devotees hail from all walks of life and are of various religious persuasions and racial origins. Lawyers, doctors, engineers and businessmen from Matale and other cities of Sri Lanka mingled with German, Italian and Chinese devotees who had come from abroad to have 'darsan' of the incumbent of this remote Ashram - 'Swami Premananda' to all his devotees and 'Ravi', the miracle boy to his erstwhile school-boy friends.

It would be appropriate to mention in this connection that the Swami's maternal grandmother who had brought up Swami as a young child, was a close devotee of a well-known Saint of the late 19th century by the name of Sri Paramaguru Swami of Matale, who is reported to have made a prediction to her that an eminent spiritual personage would be born in her lineage within a few decades of his passing away.

Another unique feature of Swamy Premananda's spiritual development is that he has had no personal Guru to grant him spiritual initiation or confer 'sanyas' on him. It is a well known fact that he received 'sanyas' from an invisible Hand while he was addressing a public audience and the white apparel that he was wearing at that time turned into saffron colour amidst the wondering gaze of the entire audience. He often speaks of the Voice of Sri Krishna talking to him on occasions through a 'visible' ball of Light which has befriended him from his childhood days.

Simple and unsophisticated in his ways he carries his reputation as a spiritual healer and miracle man with the nonchalance and playfulness of a child and has studiously avoided exploiting it for the sake of fame and power.



Hear good. see good. do good.
think good and you will have
the grace of God.

Swami Premananda.

Swami Premananda is in the U.K. on a short visit. He is expected to conduct THE LINGO-TPAVAM CEREMONY in Birmingham on Maha Shivarathri Day, the 12th of February 1983.

Miss Ann Chong of Singapore has written a book titled "DISCOVERING SWAMI PREMANANDA".

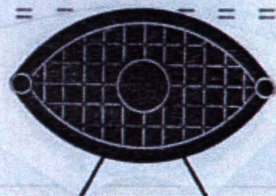
For further details of Swami's visit to UK or the Book, please Phone Mr. Selva at 01-693-8687.

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